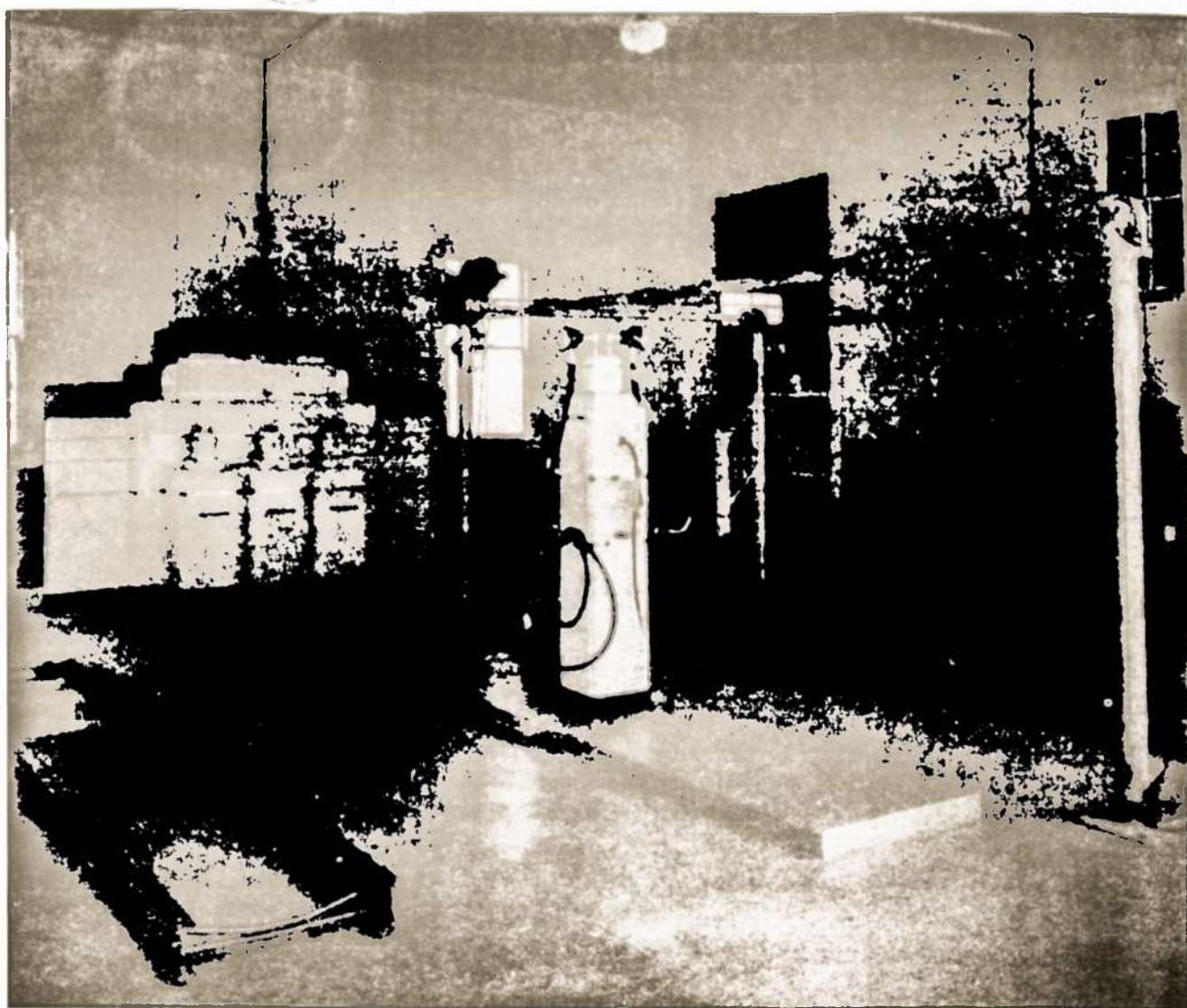


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TWISTING THE DIALS

With A. L. SIMON

We've been thinking lately about "radio" proverbs. You know, those popular fallacies that can be exploded by a little clear thinking. So here they are.

It's a good idea to keep thinking that hard work is a sure means to success but take it from Raymond Edward Johnson, there's no truth in it. The star of Your Family and Mine says you still need a lucky break.

Then there's the fallacy about being typed in show business which means you always get the same kind of roles. When her comedienne's bit faded with the Phil Baker show, Ethel Owen landed a moll part on Mr. District Attorney. Teddy Bergman switched from his stooge role with Tommy Riggs to do horror scenes on The Shadow.

The third fallacy gets the dynamite treatment from Milton Berle. It's the one about comedians being born, not made. Berle says they're made and he ought to know. He started out as an impersonator and worked into the role of funnyman after years of one-night stands. Henry Young-

man played violin in an orchestra before turning to comedy. Fibber McGee and Molly were a song and patter team, and now look at them.

But then again, maybe these are exceptions.

CHATTER: These rumors about Zeke Manners aren't true . . . he isn't married and his sudden trip to the coast was only to witness the wedding ceremony of his sister . . . Edgar Bergen has a new gal friend . . . she's one of the beauties from Earl Carroll's theatre . . . WHN's Bowery Mission, one of the most dramatic of the local shows, goes commercial on a full hour basis . . . even a camera couldn't record the thrilled delight on kiddies' faces when they shake hands with Uncle Don . . . an appendix operation is keeping maestro Frankie Masters in bed . . . the attack came a few hours before he was scheduled to open at Loew's State . . . Don Ameche is in N. Y. planning a West Indies cruise . . . Xmas this year will again find programs from all parts of the world, even in war-torn countries . . . Fred Allen's voice will be heard in Jack Benny's new picture . . . rumor has it that more programs will follow on a half-hour basis when the Charlie McCarthy show is cut to that

length . . . Ted Husing got the assignment to cover the Orange Bowl grid classic . . . Len Doyle who plays Harrington on Ed Byrnes' Mr. District Attorney is doubling in Eddie Dowling's Bway Play . . . Orson Welles steps aside on Xmas eve on the CBS Playhouse to allow Lionel Barrymore to play the Scrooge role . . . Ben Bernie's renewed . . . Tommy Dorsey may keep his new vocalist, Allan DeWitt even after Jack Leonard returns to the band . . . with networks and agencies gloomy over "retrenchment" word comes that both Milton Berle's and Phil Spitalny's shows have been renewed . . . E. L. Bragdon is turning out a book on television.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston are doing a most commendable work in looking after the care of horses and animals in the state. At this Christmas time they are advising with owners as to feeding and proper care, and poor horses are given a special Christmas meal. Owners of animals should see that they are not carelessly exposed to bad weather conditions in stabling and are given proper and sufficient food.

Miss Edna Grodman Wins Spelling Match Held By Local Grange

Miss Edna Grodman of the youth hostel won the spelling match, held by the Grange in their hall last Friday evening. The second prize went to Sanford Smith of Brattleboro. Others who participated were:

Euphrasia Purrington, Virginia Leach, Robert Fuller, Louise Dwight, Dave Elkinton, Martha Hoagland, Mary Allen, Ida Bugbee, Esther Szeszowski, Mrs. Ines Brown, Grace Randall, Evangelina Garfield, Mrs. Josephine Helton, Ona Upham, Warren Brown, Winona Robinson, Harriet Dwight, Alice Stevens, Marion Allen, Irene Foley, John Gale, Rolfe L. Carmean, Mrs. Genevieve Eastman, Elizabeth Nilo, Valentine Plotzyk, Mrs. Clara B. Alexander, Ian French, Althea Churchill, Elizabeth Braley, Genevieve Wozniak, Phyllis Turner, Marion Kumin, Helen Detweiler and Mary Jane Bolton.

Music was furnished during the evening by the Hermon Knights, an orchestra of 10 pieces of Mt. Hermon school. William Urganiewicz played an accordion.

Mrs. Merwin D. Birdsall of Mt. Hermon presented the words to the spellers and Harry Erickson, Linville W. Robbins, and Miss Julia Austin were the judges.

The contest provided a most interesting evening's entertainment. The spelling bee followed a public supper by the Grange which was well attended.

Back Yard Gardener

Well, now that our two Thanksgiving dinners are settled, we can let ourselves shrink back to normal until Christmas. It certainly is funny how folks can make so much talk and fuss over which day of the year they should stuff themselves until—well, you have heard several expressions which fit in very nicely.

Thanksgiving or Giving Thanks Day, according to what I can find out, started long before there were any political battles. The Greeks had their feasts in honor of their goddesses of the harvest, Demeter; and the Romans had theirs in honor of Ceres. The old folks in England, before the Pilgrims started kicking over the traces, had their harvest home festivals at which they gave thanks for the bountiful harvests. And the Indians in America had what might be termed days of feasting, games, and sports to celebrate their good fortunes.

Somewhere along the line the sports part by the heavy eaters dropped out. I suppose you could say that it has been replaced to a certain extent by our football games.

In 1621 which was the beginning of our modern day Thanksgiving, the day was observed in October. And in 1622, when rain came after a severe drought, the Plymouth colonists were so thankful that the governor declared a day of thanksgiving, and this was held in July. I believe that was the first time on record that a political personage had declared what might be called a sacred or religious holiday. Previous to that time feast days had been declared by the church.

Thanksgiving day from the time of the Pilgrims to Civil War times was more or less hit or miss with the Continental Congress and then President George Washington proclaiming a day as one of thanks. Some followed suit, others did not. Abraham Lincoln de-

clared the fourth Thursday in November as a national day for Thanksgiving. Andrew Jackson, his immediate successor, proclaimed that Thanksgiving should be the last Thursday in November, and until this year it has been so proclaimed by every president.

Being a curious sort of a cuss I scouted around to see what information I could gather on other holidays. Christmas and New Year's are observed the world over.

The chief legal or public holidays in the United States which are observed by all states are Jan. 1, New Year's day; Feb. 22, Washington's birthday; July 4, Independence Day; the first Monday of September as Labor Day; Nov. 11, Armistice day; the last Thursday in Nov. as Thanksgiving day; and Dec. 25, Christmas day.

One source of information says that there are no legal holidays in the United States as there are in

England. Of course, that source of information was apparently written before May, 1938, because at that time a law was signed by the President making Armistice Day, Nov. 11, a national legal holiday. And Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, every fourth year is a legal holiday (20th amendment) in the District of Columbia, only.

So putting two and two together, I guess we can say that holidays are simply holidays by proclamation of governors or by common observance. Also some of the state legislatures have made certain legal holidays for their states. April 19, Patriot's Day, is observed only in Maine and Massachusetts. All states but eight observe May 30 as Memorial Day, and all but 12 observe Oct. 12 as Columbus Day.

Know Massachusetts

Do you know that Massachusetts industry is employing about 11 per cent more people than a year ago . . . Cotton textile activity in the state is a third greater, but shoe production is about the same as at this time last year. . . . The Pilgrims made the first

search for minerals in Plymouth county in 1628, but the first record of iron smelting is found in Bridgewater in 1707 . . . The first pots and kettle produced in America were made at the Duxbury forge . . . Benjamin Harris of Boston, who published "Public Occurrences" as early as Sept. 1690, is said to be the father of American newspapering . . . Boston has the first underwater tunnel constructed in the United States . . . Massachusetts produces more than twice as much textile machinery and parts as any other state . . . The Essex Institute, Salem, contains the finest library in the United States on China and the Chinese . . . Sam Walter Foss, author of the poem "The House by the Side of the Road," was a former librarian in the public library, Somerville. . . . The Ropes Memorial, Salem, formerly occupied and owned by Judge Nathaniel Ropes (1726-74) contains a valuable collection of Canton, Nanking, and Fitchburg china and Irish glass . . . William Pynchon, founder of Springfield, came from Springfield, England. . . . The first machine-made watches in the United States were manufactured in Waltham in 1854

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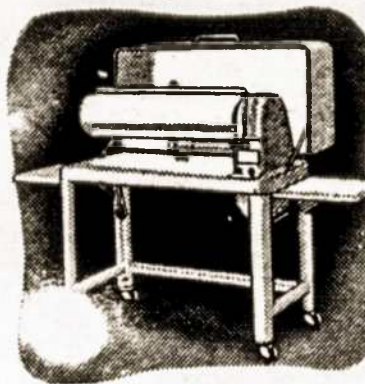
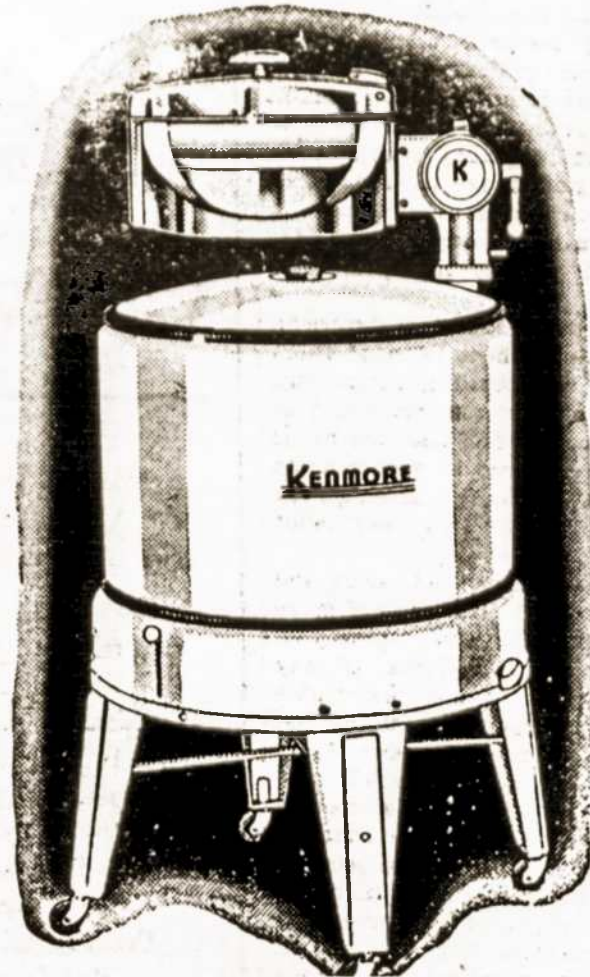
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